

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 A-01 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 USSS-00

OC-06 SY-05 OPR-02 CCO-00 SSO-00 TRSE-00 USIE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5059

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 1253

EA FOR HOLBROOKE

LONDON PLEASE PASS VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PARM, OVIP, JA (MONDALE, WALTER F.)

SUBJECT: WORKING VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE TO EUROPE AND
JAPAN; NON-PROLIFERATION DISCUSSIONS IN TOKYO

REF: TOKYO 972

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, GOJ APPARENTLY INTENDS TO RAISE SUBJECT
OF PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY (PRESUMABLY INCLUDING NUCLEAR
NON-PROLIFERATION) DURING VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO TOKYO.

2. ACCORDING TO USIS WIRELESS FILE FOR 1/25/77, SUBJECT WAS
DISCUSSED (PROBABLY IN DIFFERENT CONTEXT) DURING MR. MONDALE'S
TALKS WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT IN BONN. NEWS STORY FURTHER
STATES, QUOTE MONDALE PARTY OFFICIALS SAID LATER THAT HIGH
LEVEL TALKS WITH THE GERMANS ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION QUESTION
WILL BEGIN SOON, PROBABLY AS EARLY AS NEXT WEEK. UNQUOTE.

3. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT SEEN SUCH A REPORT IN JAPANESE PRESS,
WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS REASONABLE CHANCE THAT GOJ IS AWARE
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OF IT THROUGH ITS EMBASSIES. FOR PAST THREE MONTHS, EVER
SINCE PUBLICATION OF THE FORD NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT, GOJ
AND INDUSTRY OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN PRESSING USG REPEATEDLY
FOR MEETINGS TO CLARIFY INTENT OF STATEMENT AND HOW
IT MIGHT APPLY TO JAPAN. USG, IN TURN, HAS REQUESTED
THAT SUCH MEETINGS BE DEFERRED UNTIL POSITION OF NEW
ADMINISTRATION IS ESTABLISHED.

4. WE KNOW FROM COMPLETELY RELIABLE SOURCES WITHIN GOJ AND JAPANESE INDUSTRY CIRCLES THAT HEAVY PRESSURE HAS BEEN PLACED ON FONMIN HATOYAMA TO BRING UP THE NUCLEAR POLICY ISSUE WHEN MR. MONDALE ARRIVES. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT PRIMIN DOES NOT INTEND TO GO INTO INTRICATE DETAIL ON JAPANESE CONCERNS OVER USG NUCLEAR POLICY, BUT WILL STATE (A) THAT GOJ HAS SAME COMMITMENT TO NON-PROLIFERATION AS DOES U.S., AND (B) THAT IT IS NECESSARY FOR USG TO HEAR JAPANESE VIEWS ON SPECIFIC MEASURES BEING CONSIDERED BY USG BEFORE SUCH MEASURES ARE DECIDED UPON, SINCE THEY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY IMPACT HEAVILY ON JAPAN'S ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH AN ECONOMICALLY AND STRATEGICALLY VIABLE NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM.

5. GREATEST JAPANESE NUCLEAR CONCERN IS THAT U.S. WILL REFUSE TO PERMIT REPROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL FROM NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, EITHER IN NEW JAPANESE FACILITY NOW APPROACHING OPERATION OR IN UK/FRENCH FACILITIES, WHEN SUCH FUEL (I.E., ENRICHED URANIUM) IS OF U.S. ORIGIN AND THEREFORE SUBJECT TO TERMS OF US/JAPAN BILATERAL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT. JAPAN TAKES POSITION THAT ITS ENERGY PROBLEMS ARE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF U.S., SINCE JAPAN IS ESSENTIALLY COMPLETELY DEPENDENT ON OTHER NATIONS FOR ALL MINERAL ENERGY RESOURCES; THEREFORE, NUCLEAR POWER IS A NECESSITY AND NOT AN OPTION. TO REDUCE DEPENDENCY ON OTHER NATIONS FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT, AND ULTIMATELY TO PROVIDE PLUTONIUM FUEL FOR FAST BREEDER REACTORS, REPROCESSING IS CONSIDERED TO BE MANDATORY IN THE JAPANESE FUEL CYCLE.
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6. IF INDEED SUBJECT IS RAISED BY EITHER SIDE IN TOKYO, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT VICE PRESIDENT TAKE POSITION THAT JAPAN WILL BE FULLY CONSULTED DURING DEVELOPMENT OF USG NUCLEAR POLICY IN LINE WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTENTIONS OF ESTABLISHING CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH ALLIES IN EVOLUTION OF FOREIGN POLICY; AND THAT USG WILL BE PREPARED TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON FURTHER NON-PROLIFERATION MEASURES AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY, EITHER IN WASHINGTON OR TOKYO. (OF COURSE, IF VICE PRESIDENT CAN BE MORE SPECIFIC AS TO TIMING, THE JAPANESE WOULD BE BOTH IMPRESSED AND RELIEVED).

7. EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE FURTHER BACKGROUND ON NUCLEAR POLICY ISSUE FROM JAPANESE PERSPECTIVE WHEN MONDALE PARTY ARRIVES TOKYO IF DESIRED.

HODGSON

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NNN

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